

20 September 1945

From: The President  
To : The Secretary of State

"I particularly desire that you take the lead in developing a comprehensive and coordinated foreign intelligence program for all federal agencies concerned with that type of activity. This should be done through the creation of an interdepartmental group, heading up under the State Department, which would formulate plans for my approval. This procedure will permit the planning of complete coverage of the foreign intelligence field and the assigning and controlling of operations in such manner that the needs of both the individual agencies and the government as a whole will be met with maximum effectiveness."

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| Correspondence from President Harry S. Truman to the Secretary of State; 1 p.   |       |             |            | LOCATION:<br>HS/HC-<br>802 <b>ITEM 4</b><br>HS/HC-31<br>Item 23 W |
| ABSTRACT  |       |             |            |   |
| This correspondence expresses President Truman's desire that the Secretary of State take the lead to develop a comprehensive and coordinated foreign intelligence program for all federal agencies. |       |             |            |   |

(Source document for HS-1, Chapter II, page 8.)

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| Memorandum for the Secretary of War from James Forrestal, Secretary of the Navy; 1 p., typed.                                |       |              | HS/HC-31    |
| Memorandum for the Secretary of the Navy from the Chief of Naval Operations, Subj: Post-War Naval Intelligence; 2pp., typed. |       |              | Item 22✓    |

ABSTRACT

These memoranda reveal the feeling among the Navy officers that a central intelligence service was needed for post-war intelligence gathering. The Chief of Naval Operations felt that the intelligence service should be set up under the Joint Chiefs of Staff plan, which would give the Departments of State, War, and Navy control over the actions of the agency.

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[Darling History Transcript]